

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Edwin Purnell Store Inventory Number: WO-336
 Address: SE Corner of Talbot Street and South Baltimore Avenue Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
 City: Ocean City Zip Code: 21842 County: Worcester
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Ocean City
 Property Owner: Unknown Tax Account ID Number: Unknown
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 2648 Tax Map Number: 110
 Project: Bridge No. 2300700, US 50 over Sinepuxent Bay Agency: SHA
 Agency Prepared By: KCI Technologies, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: Sandra Scaffidi Date Prepared: 9/30/2005
 Documentation is presented in: Edwin L. Purnell Store, MIHP No. WO-336; Ocean City Survey District, MIHP No. WO-412
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
 Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
 Site visit by MHT Staf ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Constructed circa 1898, the Edwin Purnell Store is recognizable by its steeply pitched hip roof covered in asbestos shingles. The two and a half story building rests on a minimal brick foundation. Built in a Victorian style, fishscale shingles and wood siding cover the exterior of the building. The west (main) elevation is oriented to Baltimore Avenue with commercial enterprises lining the first floor, recessed under a two story porch. Tapered columns support the second floor porch while original turned posts remain on the second floor to support the roof. The second floor wall is marked by a center door flanked by two-over-two sash windows.

The Edwin Purnell Store is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The resource no longer conveys its historical or architectural association with any significant pattern of events (Criterion A). Although the structure once belonged to Edwin Purnell, an early shopkeeper in Ocean City, the building no longer conveys as association with Purnell (Criterion B). The numerous alterations to the structure such as replacement windows and physical additions mar the historic and architectural integrity of the building, making it not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. Finally, the resource does not appear to possess the potential to convey additional significant historical information (Criterion D).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: *Alterations do not compromise integrity - still conveys essential character of L19-E20C commercial bldg.*

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/28/06
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/29/06
Date

200503098



WO-412 WO-336
Edwin Purnell Store, Ocean City Survey District
Worcester County, Maryland

Sandra Caffie

9/22/05

MD SHPO

Facing southeast, north and west elevations

1 of 2

5.65 BA010ANX0N NNN- 2 7007

007

SuperiorPhoto 0/05 64156



WO-412, WO-336, WO-337

Edwin Purnell Store Town Market. Ocean City Survey District

Worcester County, Maryland

Sandra Staffidi

9/22/05

MD SHPD

Facing west, east elevations of the Edwin Purnell Store and the town market visible

2 of 2

5.65 BA010ANX0N NNN+ 3 7009

001

SuperiorPhoto 0/05 64183

WO-336
Edwin L. Purnell Store
Ocean City
Private

c. 1898

The old Edwin L. Purnell store is a distinctive commercial building that survives from the early period of Ocean City history. Built around 1898, the two-and-a-half story frame store is distinguished by a steeply pitched hip roof that is extended with a two-story porch that encircles three sides of the main block. Notable as well is the exterior sheathing of fish-scale shingles on the second floor and within in the rooftop cross gables. Few turn of the twentieth century commercial buildings survive in the old part of Ocean City, and, despite alterations on the first floor, the building retains a large degree of integrity. Similar to much of the city's early commercial architecture, the rectangular hip roofed main block was simply enhanced with a two-story turned post porch and an exterior layer of fish-scale shingles.

A chain of title for this property reveals the corner lot was the site of the Edwin L. Purnell store during much of the twentieth century. The extant store was evidently erected during the ownership of Edwin L. Purnell, which began in May 1897. The Sanborn Insurance map printed in the same year indicates the lot was unimproved at the time. The architectural features of the building suggest it was erected shortly afterwards. Located on "Lot 49" as designated on the original plat of Ocean City, the lot transferred initially for \$200. The store property was held by Purnell family interests until 1969.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Edwin L. Purnell Store

MHT Inventory Number: WO-336

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

Commerce

- 2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial / Urban Dominant
(1870-1930)

- 4) Resource Type(s):

Standing Structure

1. Store

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-336

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic EDWIN L. PURNELL STORE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Corner of Talbot Street and Baltimore Ave. ☐ not for publicationcity, town Ocean City ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name P. L. Sethi

street & number 209 South Baltimore Ave. telephone no.: 289-5687

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 1258

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 177

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-336

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Edwin L. Purnell store stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Talbot Street in the heart of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame structure faces west with the hip roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1898, the two-and-a-half story commercial building rests on a minimal brick foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched asbestos shingle hip roof. Extending around the building and fronting the two street elevations as well as the east side is a two-story porch.

The west (main) elevation is oriented to Baltimore Avenue. Sheltered by the two-story porch is a series of commercial fronts with recessed entrances and large display windows. Tapered columns support the second floor porch, while original turned posts remain on the second floor to support the roof. A turned baluster handrail stretches between the porch posts. The second floor wall is marked by a center door flanked by two-over-two sash windows. Fish-scale shingles cover the wall surface. Distinguishing the roof is a cross gable with a two-over-two sash window surrounded by a field of fish-scale shingles.

The first floor on the north side of the building is infilled with later alterations, but the second floor remains an open porch with turned posts. Paired two-over-two sash windows are flanked by single two-over-two sash. Centered on the north slope of hip roof is another cross gable filled with a one-over-one sash window.

The two-story porch extends around to the east side as well, and the exterior is finished in a similar manner. Rising through the center of building on the east side is a narrow brick stove chimney.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-336

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates | Builder/Architect |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | |
| and/or | |
| Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The old Edwin L. Purnell store is a distinctive commercial building that survives from the early period of Ocean City history. Built around 1898, the two-and-a-half story frame store is distinguished by a steeply pitched hip roof that is extended with a two-story porch that encircles three sides of the main block. Notable as well is the exterior sheathing of fish-scale shingles on the second floor and within the rooftop cross gables. Few turn of the twentieth century commercial buildings survive in the old part of Ocean City, and, despite alterations on the first floor, the building retains a large degree of integrity. Similar to much of the city's early architecture, the rectangular hip roofed main block was simply enhanced with a two-story turned post porch and an exterior layer of fish-scale shingles.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A chain of title for this property reveals the corner lot was the site of the Edwin L. Purnell store during the much of the twentieth century. The extant store was evidently erected during the ownership of Edwin L. Purnell, which began in May 1897. The Sanborn Insurance map printed in the same year indicates the lot was unimproved at the time. The architectural features of the building suggest it was erected shortly afterwards. Located on "Lot 49" as designated on the original plat of Ocean City, the lot transferred initially for \$200.(FHP 9/407) The store property was held by Purnell family interests until 1969.(FWH 248/257)

Survey No. W0-336

WO-336
EDWIN L. PURNELL STORE
Ocean City, Maryland
Chain of title

WCL 1258/177 Parstotan Ial Sethi, Ramesh Sethi,
Sushil Kumar

to

12/12/1986 Parstotan Ial Sethi, Remesh Sethi
northerly part of lot 49

FWH 742/197 Fay Y. Kramer

to

12/31/1980 Parstotan Ial Sethi, et al. as above

FWH 248/257 Josephine Campbell Purnell
widow of Edwin L. Purnell

to

3/21/1969 Fay Y. Kramer
Northerly part of lot 49

JEB 9/106 Irma K. Mumford

to

4/23/1941 Edwin L. Purnell, Josephine C. his wife
1. JEB 9/106 Irma K. Mumford to Edwin L.
Purnell (Northerly part Lot 49)
2. ODC 49/308 March 7, 1924 Edwin L.
Purnell to John E. Lynch (a portion of
lot 49)

WO-336

Page 2

EDWIN L. PURNELL STORE
Ocean City, Maryland
Chain of title continued

3. ODC 16/494, June 18, 1914 Edwin L.
Purnell to John E. Lynch $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 49

4. FHP 9/407, May 18, 1897 Jacob M.
Holloway to Edwin L. Purnell "Lot 49"
\$200

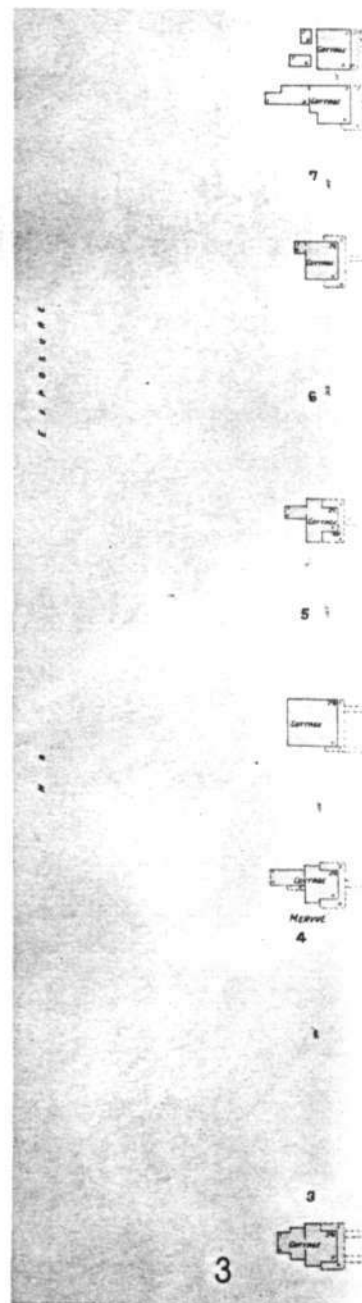
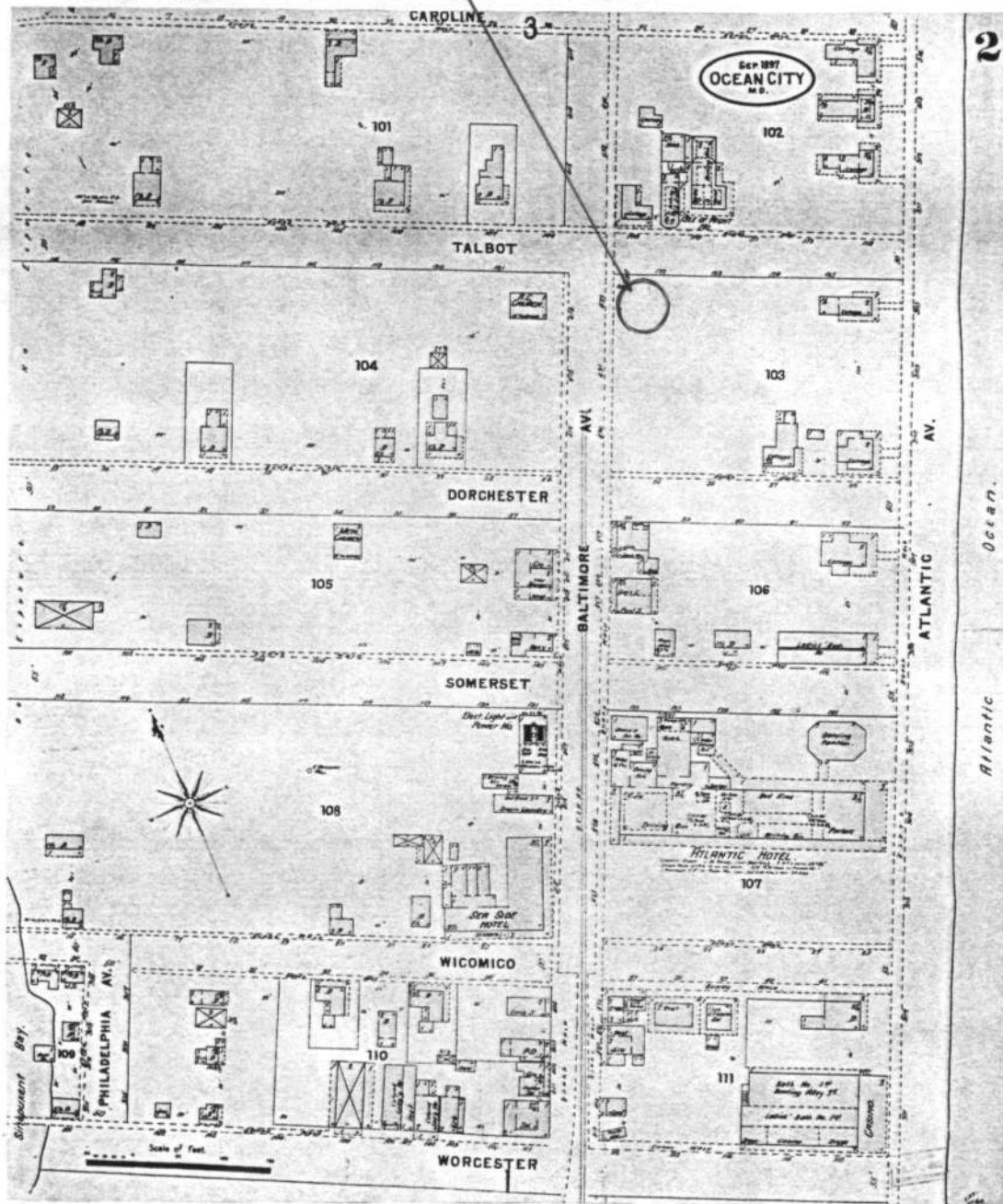
5. Baldwin F.? Collector of Taxes
to Jacob M. Holloway FHP 7/419 4/24/1896

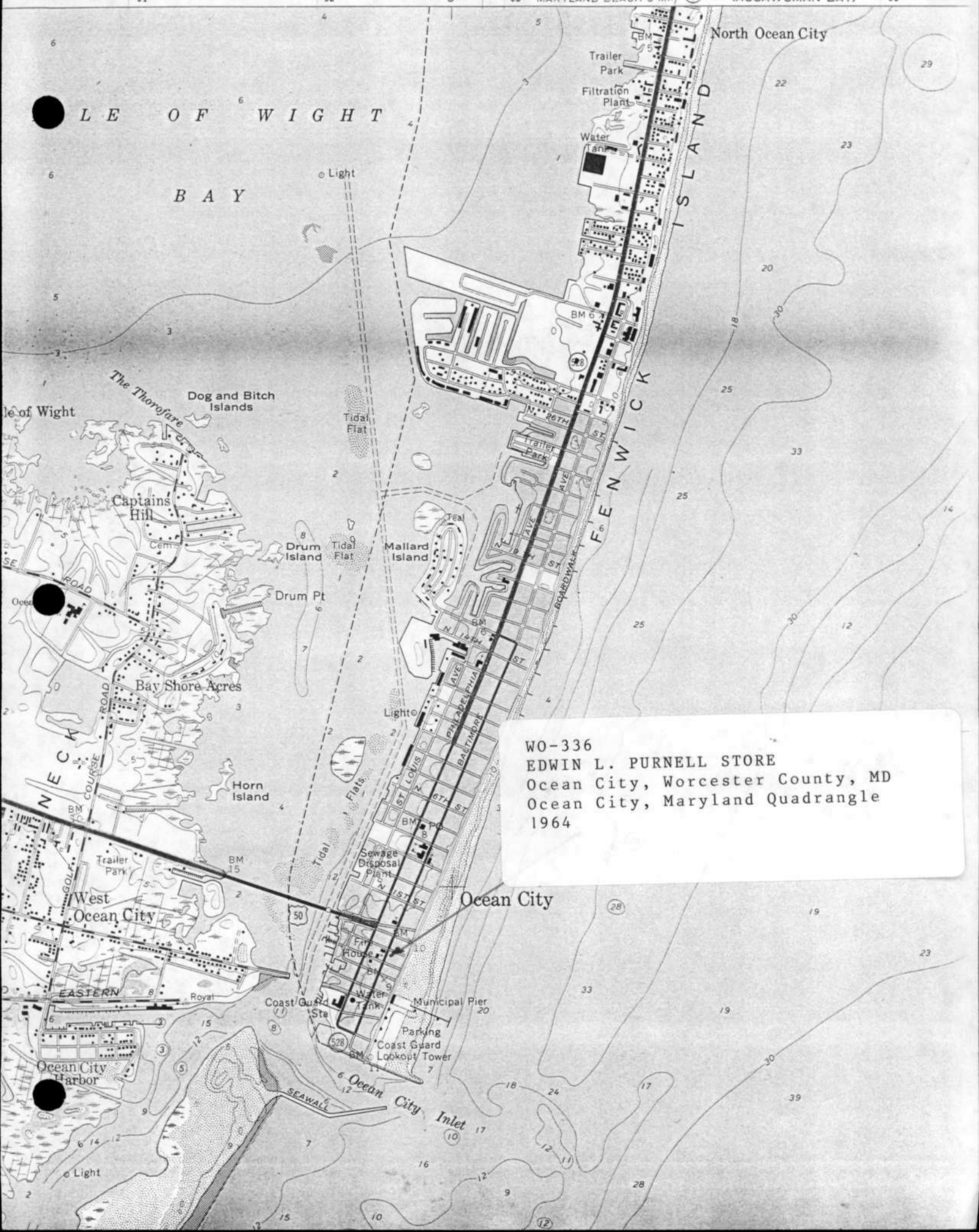
6. Orphans Court Proceedings, estate of
Peter L. Davis, deceased September 1899

7. ITM 6/394 Hillary R. Pitts, et al. to
Peter L. Davis, January 19, 1878

1897 SANBORN INSURANCE MAP

SITE OF NO-336, EDWIN L. PURNELL STORE





WO-336
EDWIN L. PURNELL STORE
Ocean City, Worcester County, MD
Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle
1964